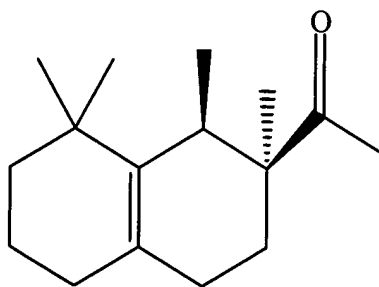


In the Claims:

- 1.(presently amended)      A process for the preparation of methylaluminium dichloride comprising ~~by~~ the steps of:
    - (i) reacting, ~~reacting~~ by heating a material of the formula
$$R_3Al_2X_3,$$
where R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and
    - (ii)    when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating,to give a crude reaction product; and
  - (iii) optionally ~~if desired~~, obtaining methylaluminium dichloride from this crude reaction product.
2. (presently amended)      A process ~~method~~ according to claim 1, in which the material of the formula  $R_3Al_2X_3$  is selected from methylaluminium sesquiodide and ethylaluminium sesquibromide.
3. (presently amended)      A process ~~method~~ according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which the material of the formula  $R_3Al_2X_3$  is a crude mixture of unreacted raw materials and product resulting from the preparation method described by Grosse and Mativy in *J.Org.Chem.* 5, 106 (1940).
- 4.(presently amended)      A process ~~method~~ according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, in which the metallic aluminium is particulate metallic aluminium, ~~preferably aluminium gritty~~.

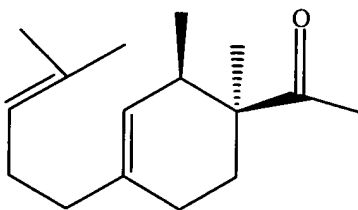
5.(currently amended)  
Formula I

A process for ~~method of~~ preparing a compound of the



I

comprising the addition of a compound of Formula II

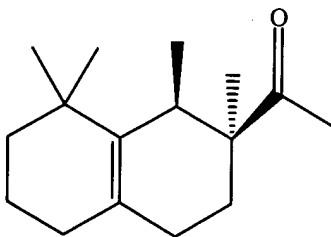


II

to the crude reaction product of a reaction according to Claim 1.

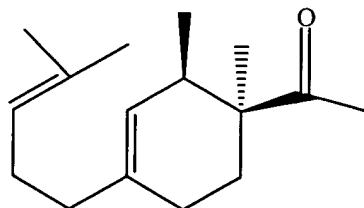
6. (currently amended)  
Formula I

A process for ~~Use in~~ the preparation of a compound of



I

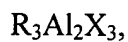
by cyclisation of a compound of Formula II



II

of a reaction mixture according to ~~prepared by~~ the steps of:

- (i) reacting by heating a material of the formula



where R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and

- (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating.